



Docket No. 22750/350

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE GROUP ART UNIT 1733

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor:

Peter PFEUFFER

Serial No.:

08/900,254

Filing Date:

July 25, 1997

For:

FILTER MATERIAL, METHOD

OF ITS MANUFACTURE, AND

APPARATUS FOR

MANUFACTURING A FILTER

MATERIAL

Group Art Unit: 1733

Examiner: Yao, S.

Confirmation No.: 7919

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 [hereby certify that this correspondence is being dep the United States Postal Service with sufficient postar class mail in an envelope addressed to. Mail Stop AH, for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. Richard M. Ros

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

In response to the Final Office Action dated June 3, 2003, please amend the above-referenced patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 without prejudice as follows:

1. (Four Times Amended) A method for manufacturing a pleated filter material from a thermally bonded non-woven fabric, comprising:

forming a single fibrous web from undrawn and drawn synthetic fibers; pre-heating the fibrous web;

calendering the single fibrous web in a single calendering step without subsequent re-heating, wherein during the single calendering step, the undrawn fibers in the single fibrous web are bonded in a tension-free manner between non-